

ROMANS 1

STUDY GUIDE FOR

ROMANS 1

by: Jay Gallimore

NOTE: The New International Version is the text used for this study. However, the lessons are quite adaptable to any version. These lessons are designed to help you wrestle with the text. Pay close attention to the text. Some questions are meant to be thought provoking.

INTRODUCTION: The prophecies of both Daniel and Revelation predicted the church at Rome would have an enormous influence on the Christian world. History, for 2000 years, has demonstrated those predictions to be true. If the Gospel to the Romans had been carefully cherished down through the ages, the Christian church would have avoided many problems. The carnal nature and the desire for worldly greatness, has always clawed at man's only hope - faith in God.

The ancient church of the patriarchs wrestled with their human tendencies to evil, and some decided to trust nature instead of the Lord - thus paganism began. The ancient Jewish church wrestled with human nature, and some decided to put their trust in the law and its rituals rather than in the Law-giver - and thus legalism began.

The church of Rome wrestled with human nature, and some decided to trust the imperial greatness of the Roman Empire rather than their Jewish Messiah - and thus began the dreadful union of religious and secular power. Persecution resulted. Modern-day evangelicals and Protestants wrestle with human nature, and some choose to trust science, psychology, and the wisdom of modern man - and thus we often see a diluted, directionless Christianity.

Each one of these departures from true religion proves to be a tower of straw with a foundation of sand. Today we are faced with the same decision; will we trust the Lord or will we trust ourselves?

The book of Romans, written by Paul, gives you a golden opportunity to know the true Gospel of Christ. This book will answer your questions with a clarity and completeness which will satisfy the deepest longings of your heart. As you launch into Romans lay aside preconceived opinions and notions and search with all your heart for the Gospel as it is in Christ Jesus.

1. **Verses 1 and 2.** For what reason does Paul say he was “called” and “set apart”?

2. After reading **verse 2**, do you think it is possible to understand the Gospel of God without the Old Testament?

YES NO Why?

3. **Verses 3 and 4.** Paul declares Jesus to be both the Son of David and the Son of God. What evidence does he offer that Jesus is indeed the Son of God?

4. **Verse 5.** Paul’s objective is to bring all nations into obedience to God’s law. How does he intend to do this?

5. **Verse 8.** Why was it important for the Gospel to be understood clearly in Rome?

6. **Verses 9-13.** List three objectives Paul wanted to accomplish in Rome.

7. **Verse 16.** What does Paul call the Gospel?

8. **Verse 17.** Paul says that the righteous person will live by his faith in God. How does a person’s faith (trust) affect his actions and his living?

9. If a person refuses to put his trust in God, whom will he trust?

NOTE: To live without trusting someone is impossible. The question that faces you is, “Where will you put your trust? Will a man put his trust in God? If he doesn’t, he will always trust himself. His actions will follow his trust.

10. **Verses 18 and 19.** Why do you think God is so angry against ungodly people who suppress the truth? Why is trust so dependent on truth?

11. **Verse 20.** What evidence of God's existence leaves all men without excuse?

NOTE: Paul presents the entire visible universe as evidence of God's creative power. Have you ever heard anyone suggest that the ELEMENTS-hydrogen, oxygen, iron and others-evolved over long periods of time? Yet these elements, which make up matter are full of protons, electrons, and neutrons, following specific laws. When man destructively splits the atom, he turns matter into energy. If matter can become energy, then energy can become matter. It is one thing for man to release the energy of an atom, but it is the power of God that can take energy and press it into matter. It is a small act to unlock the gate, but it is an almighty act to harness the forces of power.

12. **Verse 21.** Why did the wise of this world become fools?

13. **Verse 22.** The words "professing to be wise" suggest that they trusted themselves and their own wisdom. Why does self-trust always lead to foolishness?

14. **Verse 23.** Since they refused to trust God, where did they turn to find an explanation for the universe around them?

NOTE: Man needs to trust and worship something. As someone said, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the human heart." If man refuses to trust and worship the

Author of nature, he will have no choice but to turn to nature itself. Ancient paganism is nature worship. And the modern theory of evolution is simply another form of nature worship. Both religious systems endeavor to discover the source of nature from nature itself. They hope to discover something worthy of their trust. Tragically, both rejected God as nature's Creator - the only One worthy of trust.

15. **Verses 24 and 25.** Why does the glorification of nature lead to the glorification of immorality?

NOTE: Ancient paganism was fascinated with fertility. Many of the rituals of paganism included immorality as an act of worship. Pagan worshipers glorified reproduction itself as the source of life rather than the author of reproduction. The modern day "playboy" philosophy derives its concept from evolution. Evolution glorifies man as being in charge of his own destiny and discounts God's government.

16. **Verse 25.** Why would man rather trust the lie that there is no God than trust the truth that there is a God?

17. **Verses 26 and 27.** These verses describe the lowest form of immorality. What phrase demonstrated that man, by indulging in these activities, destroys the very thing he has put his trust in?

18. Does the phrase "receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error" have any modern fulfillment?

NOTE: Like a Philadelphia lawyer, Paul brings the pagan mind to the full circle of its foolishness. First, the pagan rejects God and turns to nature. Trusting in nature leads him to glorify himself and his own lusts. When these lusts are glorified and exercised, he ends up violating and destroying the very nature he worships. His foolishness is clearly evident and very complete.

19. **Verse 28.** What state of mind is the result of refusing to acknowledge God?

-
-
20. What one word can you think of that would describe the list in **verses 28-31**?

NOTE: Reading Paul's list of evildoers, most people will be struck by the fact that something there applies to themselves. Does this list convict you of some sin? Because our own hearts are so depraved, Paul is endeavoring to help us understand our great need.

THINK IT THROUGH: Verse 16. Each one of us must wrestle with what we are going to do with this verse. I must choose between trusting myself or trusting God. What about you? Are you willing to admit that you need the gospel? Are you unashamed to say with Paul that "the gospel is the power of God" for your salvation?

Record your response here:
